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## **President Shelly Meets with Coalition of Large Tribes on Energy Regulations and Policy**

**Washington, D.C.**—Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met on Monday with tribal leaders and White House Administration officials at a Coalition of Large Tribes (COLT) meeting to discuss energy development on tribal lands. Key issues focused on departmental regulations and policy concerning permits, approvals, and leasing for energy development.

"The Navajo Nation supports the allocation of more resources to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the management of regulatory and clearance processes," President Shelly stated. "In this time of increased federal deficits and looming budget cuts, we urge the agencies to coordinate with each other to reduce inefficiencies and bottlenecks."

President Shelly met with Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echohawk, Director of Indian Energy and Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy Tracey LeBeau, BIA Director Michael Black, Director for Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Steve Manydeeds, tribal leaders from the Crow, Blackfeet, Uintah and Ouray Ute, and the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Nations.

Administration officials listened to the ideas presented by tribal leaders, and discussed details of the Executive Order 12866, which states the administrative priority of improving regulation and regulatory review. It also provides guidance to agencies regarding public participation, interagency coordination, and flexibility when applying federal regulations.

In the tenants of order section of Executive Order 1266, stated it is to reduce "redundant, inconsistent, and overlapping" requirements, which is important to energy projects on the Navajo Nation,

The Executive Order requires each federal agency to submit to the White House Office of Management and Budget a preliminary plan under which regulations will be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed to make the agency's regulatory program more effective and less burdensome.

Yesterday, COLT met with members of Congress to discuss legislative methods of streamlining the processes to aid energy and economic development in Indian country.

COLT is made up of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Crow Tribe of Montana, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Blackfeet Tribe of Montana, Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, Spokane Tribe of Washington, Ute Tribe of Uintah and Ouray, and the Navajo Nation.